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ONTARIO CANADA

FAST FACTS

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PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, CANADA

Ontario is the largest of Canada's 10 provinces in population (nine million) and the second largest in area (1,070,000 kilometres² or 413,000 square miles). The province is bigger than the combined areas of Spain and France.

Ontario has a quarter-million lakes, 1,094 kilometres (680 miles) of saltwater coastlines on Hudson Bay and James Bay, and a freshwater shoreline of more than 3,701 kilometres (2,300 miles) on the Great Lakes. It is bordered by the provinces of Quebec to the east and Manitoba to the west.

Located in the heart of North America, Ontario is within a day's drive for more than 100 million people in the United States and Canada.

Ontario is the industrial core of Canada, producing 49 percent of the nation's manufactured goods. It contributes 49 percent of Canada's total exports, and accounts for 81 percent of the country's fully manufactured exports.



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During 1984, Ontario's exports totalled \$55.2 billion, a record-breaking 32 percent rise over 1983.

Motor vehicles and automotive parts led Ontario's 1984 exports with a value of \$27.8 billion -- 50.3 percent of the province's total exports for the year.

Ontario alone accounts for 38 percent of Canada's Gross National Product and 38.1 percent of its total personal income.

Average income in Ontario is one of the highest in Canada -- \$17,133 for individuals, \$38,632 for families.

In addition to its large domestic market, Ontario enjoys easy access to the huge markets of the eastern and central United States. Three-quarters of the continental U.S. and 106 million customers are within a day's drive of the province.

Ontario also enjoys tremendous natural resources. Notable minerals include copper, iron ore, zinc, silver, gold and platinum. The province boasts half the globe's nickel supply and the largest supply of uranium in the western world.

As well, there are 426,000 kilometres² (164,428 square miles) of productive forest land.

Mining and forest industries are spread across the northern part of the province, while manufacturing and agriculture are predominant in the south.

Ontario's rich soil supports such diversified farm products as tobacco, fruit, vegetables, cheese, winter wheat and grapes. Although Ontario possesses one-fifth of Canada's productive farmland, it produces half of the country's food.

Ontario also boasts one of the lowest electricity costs in the world thanks to Ontario Hydro, probably the largest electrical utility in North America. Ontario Hydro provides 95 percent of the province's electrical power -- power obtained from 80 hydraulic, fossil and nuclear generating stations in a transmission system covering the province and parts of the U.S.

Ontario's excellent network of road, air and rail facilities provides economical transportation of goods to markets. Crisscrossing the province are 21,609 kilometres (13,428 miles) of highways and more than 161,599 kilometres (100,416 miles) of secondary roads and streets (1983). The St. Lawrence Seaway, part of a 3,701 kilometre (2,300 mile) deep-water route stretching from the Gulf of St. Lawrence through the Great Lakes and into the interior of North America, allows ocean-going ships access to industrial transshipment centres in Canada and the U.S.

Tourism in Ontario contributes substantially to the province's economy. In 1984 it accounted for \$7.19 billion in revenue, making it one of the province's largest employers and a major source of foreign income. In 1985, some 23.5 million tourists from the U.S. and 975,000 from abroad visited Ontario.

Ontario's capital and largest city is Toronto. Ottawa, the nation's capital, is in eastern Ontario.

More than 60 cultures thrive in Ontario -- each part of the English-speaking mainstream, each retaining their traditions and language.

CLIMATE

Ontario's climate ranges from warm in the south to temperate areas to subarctic in the far north.

Ontario highs and lows

Average daily minimum and maximum temperatures at selected points in Ontario.

	January Low High	April Low High	July Low High	October Low High
Cochrane	-9 °F 12 °F -23 °C -11 °C	23 °F 45 °F -5 °C 7 °C	51 °F 75 °F 10 °C 24 °C	32 °F 50 °F 0 °C 10 °C
Kenora	-8 °F 10 °F -22 °C -12 °C	28 °F 46 °F -2 °C -8 °C	57 °F 77 °F 14 °C 25 °C	36 °F 48 °F 2 °C 9 °C
Ottawa	3 °F 21 °F -16 °C -6 °C	31 °F 50 °F -.5 °C 10 °C	57 °F 80 °F 14 °C 26 °C	37 °F 55 °F 3 °C 13 °C
Thunder Bay	-2 °F 18 °F -19 °C -8 °C	27 °F 45 °F -3 °C 7 °C	52 °F 73 °F 11 °C 23 °C	34 °F 51 °F 1 °C 10 °C
Sault Ste. Marie	9 °F 25 °F -13 °C -4 °C	28 °F 46 °F -2 °C 8 °C	51 °F 75 °F 10 °C 24 °C	37 °F 55 °F 3 °C 12 °C
Toronto	18 °F 31 °F -7 °C -.5 °C	36 °F 52 °F 2 °C 11 °C	61 °F 81 °F 16 °C 27 °C	42 °F 57 °F 5 °C 14 °C
Windsor	20 °F 32 °F -6 °C 0 °C	38 °F 57 °F 3 °C 13 °C	62 °F 82 °F 16 °C 27 °C	44 °F 62 °F 7 °C 16 °C

TAXATION

Income Tax: Canada has one central or federal government and 10 provincial governments. Canadian taxpayers are subject to both federal and provincial income taxes. The federal government collects the provincial portion of the tax so that only one tax form is required.

Residing in Canada means that your income from all sources is subject to income tax.

If you are waiting to establish yourself in Canada before bringing your wife and children, your local tax office will advise you about claiming for their support.

All queries regarding taxation problems should be directed to district taxation offices located in 10 cities around the province.

Sales Tax: The province imposes a sales tax of seven percent on most goods at the point of sale, and on labour for the repair, maintenance and installation of personal property and repairs to cars, trucks and most appliances. Tax on transient accommodation is five percent.

Municipal Taxes: Each municipality levies taxes on property owners to pay for such services as education, police and fire protection, road maintenance, sewage and drainage services, parks and recreation. Assessment rates vary according to municipality.

EMPLOYMENT, WAGES AND SALARIES

Newcomers to the province who have had professional training in other countries may find it necessary to have their qualifications approved by local authorities. A Canada employment centre can guide you to the appropriate professional association.

Tradespeople should contact the industrial training branch of the Ministry of Skills Development to have their qualifications assessed according to Ontario standards. A certificate of qualification is necessary to work in the certified trades.

A five-day 40-hour work week is the general practice. Subject to regulations, an employee working over 44 hours a week must be paid time-and-a-half.

Maximum daily and weekly hours of work are eight and 48 respectively. Employees must apply for permits to exceed these limits.

The minimum wage for full-time employees is \$4 per hour.

Male and female employees are required by law to receive the same rate of pay to perform the same work.

All employees are entitled to vacation pay at a rate of not less than four percent of earnings. After one year of service, employees are entitled to two weeks' vacation with pay.

The following are legal holidays according to provincial statute: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Canada Day (July 1), Labour Day (first Monday in September), Thanksgiving Day (second Monday in October) and Christmas Day.

Other widely-recognized public holidays are Easter Monday, Civic Holiday (first Monday in August), Remembrance Day and Boxing Day. These are non-statutory.

WAGES AND SALARIES

Starting rates for university graduates, 1985.

	MIN	AVE	MAX	(MONTHLY)
Engineer, all types Bachelor (4 year))	\$2,058	\$2,223	\$2,375	
Computer Science Bachelor (4 year)	\$1,750	\$2,020	\$2,156	
Physical Sciences Bachelor (4 year)	\$1,933	\$2,159	\$2,318	
Commerce and Business Administration, Honours, (4 year)	\$1,360	\$1,589	\$2,050	
Arts (3 year)	\$1,475	\$1,630	\$2,034	
Arts, Honours, (4 year)	\$1,475	\$1,659	\$2,034	
Masters of Business Administration	\$1,533	\$2,313	\$2,500	

Source: Actual Recruiting Rates for 1985
University and Community College Graduates,
Pay Research Bureau, Ottawa

MAINTENANCE TRADES (per hour)	1985
	AVERAGE
Electrical repair	\$15.11
Machinist	\$14.25
Millwright	\$15.07
Pipe Fitter	\$15.64
Plumber	\$13.51
Tool and Die Maker	\$14.45
Welder	\$14.55
SERVICE OCCUPATIONS (per hour)	
Cleaner, heavy	\$10.02
Cleaner, light	\$ 7.77
Security Guard	\$ 6.13
Shipping Clerk	\$10.26
Truck Driver, heavy	\$12.30
OFFICE OCCUPATIONS (per week)	1985
Bookkeeper, senior	\$437
Computer Operator, senior	\$450
Data-entry Operator, senior	\$366
File Clerk	\$303
Programmer, junior	\$495
Programmer, senior	\$610
Secretary, junior	\$365
Secretary, senior	\$415
Stenographer, senior	\$374
Typist, senior	\$334
Word Processor Operator	\$360
OTHER (per hour)	1984
Baker, bread	\$10.40
Linotype Operator	\$14.24
Retail food Store Cashier	
- full-time	\$10.98
- part-time	\$ 7.92
Web Pressman/woman	\$15.29

Source: 1984 and 1985 Wage Rates, Salaries & hours of labour,
Labour Canada, October 1, 1984/85

NOTE: In 1985, Canadian workers logged an absentee rate of only
three percent.

EDUCATION

Two ministries of the Government of Ontario share the responsibility for providing education. The Ministry of Education is responsible for elementary and secondary education; the Ministry of Colleges and Universities for post-secondary education.

Two publicly supported elementary school systems -- one public, one Roman Catholic -- exist in the province.

Although the majority of students attend either of these systems, there are numerous privately operated schools. Parents who send their children to private schools are not exempt from paying education taxes for the publicly supported systems.

By law, all children between the ages of six and 16 must attend an elementary or secondary school.

Because French is one of the two official languages of Canada, French-speaking students can be educated in their mother-tongue. Information on French-language instruction is available through the Ministry of Education.

SERVICES

Electricity: Electrical power is generated in Ontario from hydro-electric stations, fossil fuels and nuclear power plants. It is supplied to municipalities by Ontario Hydro, a provincially-owned corporation. Electricity rates vary according to locality.

Household electricity supply is 110 volts, 60 cycles. Because of conversion problems, it is advisable to leave behind appliances from other countries designed for other types of electrical supply.

Gas: Natural gas is available in many communities through a public utility or a private company. It is used for heating, cooking and water heating.

Water: Water is available in all urban communities through a public utility commission. Some municipalities charge according to amount of water used. Others charge a flat rate.

Heating: The cost of heating varies according to location, type of construction, amount of insulation and size of building. The cost of heating oil is higher in northern and remote communities, reflecting higher transportation costs from refineries.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Automobiles: The car is an integral part of the Canadian lifestyle. Eighty percent of all households have at least one car.

An Ontario driver's licence is issued on a three-year basis and costs \$21. Newly landed immigrants are permitted to drive for 60 days on their existing permit, until they get an Ontario licence. Application should be made to an office of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications soon after arrival.

Insurance is obligatory for all automobiles operated in the province.

Every motor vehicle must be registered and bear current licence plates which are renewed every year. Licence fees effective 1986 are: \$54 for passenger cars and lightweight commercial vehicles used for personal purposes in southern Ontario; \$81 for commercial vehicles weighing 3,000 kilograms or less; \$30 for motorcycles; and \$9 for mopeds. Lightweight commercial vehicles registered in northern Ontario and used for personal purposes carry a licence fee of \$27.

Urban Transit Systems: Bus transportation is the principal method of most urban transit systems, although some cities have streetcars or trains. Toronto has a modern system which combines bus, streetcar and underground train service.

A commuter train operates within a 30-mile radius of central Toronto and provides rapid transportation with bus links to nearby communities.

Railways: Passenger travel links many communities within the province and across the country. Fares vary according to the day of the week. They are highest on weekends.

Bus transportation: Most communities in Ontario are linked by bus service.

Air travel: Air travel links all of the most populated areas as well as the main communities in the remote parts of the province. There are two international airports - Toronto's Lester B. Pearson International Airport and Ottawa.

Telephones: Ninety-eight percent of all homes in Canada have at least one telephone.

The basic monthly rate for telephone service depends on the number of areas a user can call without incurring long distance charges. This service charge covers the cost of unlimited calls with extra billing for long-distance calls.

HOUSING

Most newcomers choose to live in an apartment or flat when they arrive in Ontario. The cost of apartment rentals varies widely, depending on location, access to transportation, shopping and other amenities.

The cost of housing depends on many factors: for example, the size of the community, the location of the property. The following list shows the average price of detached bungalows (approximately 1,200 square feet) as of January 1986. (A.E. Lepage).

Windsor	\$ 73,000
Kitchener	86,500
London	79,000
Hamilton	79,000
Toronto	125,000
Ottawa	101,000
Kingston	80,000
Thunder Bay	100,000

The average price range of new homes for the same cities as of February 1986 is:

Windsor.....	\$ 73,000	-	\$130,000
Kitchener.....	\$ 86,000	-	\$122,000
London.....	\$ 80,000	-	\$115,000
Hamilton.....	\$ 77,000	-	\$147,000
Toronto.....	\$110,000	-	\$250,000
Ottawa.....	\$ 92,000	-	\$160,000
Kingston.....	\$ 80,000	-	\$110,000
Thunder Bay.....	\$100,000	-	\$134,000

SOCIAL BENEFITS

Family allowances: Children born in Canada and children of newcomers are eligible for family allowances of \$31.58 a month per child, (indexed annually) until they are 18 years of age. Allowances are paid by the federal government.

Old age security: Old age security is a pension paid by the Government of Canada to legal residents, 65 years of age or older. The basic pension of \$285.20 per month is indexed quarterly. Newcomers to the country should contact the federal Department of Health and Welfare to determine if they have resided in Canada long enough to be eligible.

Canada Pension Plan: The Canada Pension Plan is a contributory social security program covering most employed people between the ages of 18 and 65. Contributions are compulsory, and the employer and worker pay equal amounts.

Worker's Compensation: Workers accidentally injured on the job have coverage under the Worker's Compensation Act for medical costs, hospital care and rehabilitation services. There is no charge or pay deduction to the employee for this coverage.

